

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A circuit board comprising a mechanism for
2 provably disabling the circuit board, the mechanism comprising:
3 signal means for conducting a signal between the mechanism and the
4 circuit board;
5 separation means for facilitating detachment of the mechanism from the
6 circuit board; and
7 identification means for identifying the mechanism;
8 wherein the circuit board becomes at least partly non-functional if the
9 mechanism is detached from the circuit board; ~~and~~
10 wherein after the mechanism has been detached from the circuit board, the
11 mechanism cannot be reattached to the circuit board; and
12 wherein the only way to detach the mechanism is to detach the mechanism
13 from the circuit board so that the mechanism cannot be reattached to the circuit
14 board.
- 1 2. (Original) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said signal means
2 comprises a wire trace.
- 1 3. (Original) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said separation
2 means comprises one or more gaps between the mechanism and the circuit board.

1 4. (Cancelled)

1 5. (Previously Presented) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said
2 identification means comprises an identification circuit.

1 6. (Previously Presented) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said
2 identification means comprises a visible identification code.

1 7. (Previously Presented) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said
2 identification means is protected from being easily manipulated.

1 8-33. (Cancelled)

1 34. (Currently amended) A circuit board assembly configured for
2 provably disabling the circuit board, the assembly comprising:
3 a circuit board comprising a tab having:
4 a proximate end connected to the circuit board;
5 a distal end opposite the proximate end; and
6 two opposing sides separated from the assembly by gaps;
7 an identification module situated on the tab; and
8 a signal conductor extending from the circuit board to the tab and
9 configured to convey a signal when the assembly is powered;
10 wherein removal of the tab at or near the proximate end so as to separate
11 said identification module from the assembly causes the signal conductor on the
12 tab to be decoupled from the signal conductor on the circuit board; and
13 wherein after the tab has been detached from the circuit board, the tab
14 cannot be reattached to the circuit board; and
15 wherein the only way to detach the tab is to detach the tab from the circuit

16 | board so that the tab cannot be reattached to the circuit board.

1 35. (Previously presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
2 wherein the circuit board assembly cannot be powered if the signal conductor on
3 the tab is decoupled from the signal conductor on the circuit board.

1 36. (Previously presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
2 wherein the circuit board becomes at least partially non-functional when the signal
3 conductor on the tab is decoupled from the signal conductor on the circuit board.

1 37. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
2 wherein the identification module comprises a hologram.

1 38. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
2 wherein the identification module comprises a barcode.

1 39. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
2 wherein the identification module comprises a sequence of characters.

1 40. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
2 wherein the identification module comprises a chip.

1 41. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
2 further comprising an integrated circuit connected to the signal conductor.

1 42. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
2 wherein the signal conductor does not extend to the distal end of the tab.

1 43. (Currently amended) A circuit board assembly comprising:
2 a signal conductor; and
3 a key removably connected to the circuit board assembly and comprising:
4 an identification module; and
5 a portion of said signal conductor;
6 wherein while said key is removably connected to the circuit board
7 assembly a plurality of gaps are defined between the circuit board assembly and
8 said key;
9 wherein removal of the key from the circuit board assembly causes said
10 portion of the signal conductor on the key to be decoupled from the signal
11 conductor on the circuit board assembly; and
12 wherein after the key has been detached from the circuit board assembly,
13 the key cannot be reattached to the circuit board assembly; and
14 wherein the only way to detach the key is to detach the key from the circuit
15 board assembly so that the key cannot be reattached to the circuit board assembly.

1 44. (Currently amended) A circuit board comprising a key removably
2 connected to the circuit board, the key comprising:
3 a portion of a signal conductor configured to conduct a signal between the
4 key and the circuit board; and
5 an identification module configured to identify the key;
6 wherein the key is removably connected to a first portion of the circuit
7 board but is separated from other portions of the circuit board by a plurality of
8 gaps;
9 wherein the gaps facilitate detachment of the key from the circuit board;
10 wherein one or more functions of the circuit board become at least partly
11 non-functional, including conduction of a signal by the signal conductor, if the
12 key is detached from the circuit board; and

13 wherein after the key has been detached from the circuit board, the key
14 cannot be reattached to the circuit board; and
15 wherein the only way to detach the key is to detach the key from the circuit
16 board so that the key cannot be reattached to the circuit board.